

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164783
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15
PRS-01 PA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 USIE-00 H-02 /040 R

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APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. HURWITZ
NSC - MR. ARMACOST
S/S:O:TGMARTIN

-----059871 142346Z /66

O 142323Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 164783

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KN, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON HELICOPTER INCIDENT

FOLLOWING ARE PRESIDENT'S JULY 14 REMARKS TO A GROUP OF
SENATORS CONCERNING HELICOPTER INCIDENT:

QUOTE WE HAVE GOTTEN THE LATEST REPORTS FROM THE HELICOPTER
THAT WAS SHOT DOWN. I THINK JODY WAS SHOWING THEM ON THE
MAP.

THE HELICOPTER WAS GIVEN A WARNING BY THE SOUTH KOREANS AS
IT ENTERED THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE.

THIS IS A MILK FLIGHT AREA. APPARENTLY THE NORTH KOREANS
HAVE ORDERS TO SHOOT DOWN ANYTHING THAT ENTERS THAT TERRI-
TORY, AND THE SOUTH KOREANS KNEW IT.

WE DON'T KNOW,OBVIOUSLY, WHAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE CREW WAS,
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WHAT THEIR PROBLEM WAS.

THE LATEST INFORMATION IS THEY FIRST LANDED IN NORTH KOREA,
GOT OUT AND INSPECTED THE HELICOPTER AND THEN GOT BACK
INTO THE HELICOPTER AND TOOK OFF. AFTER IT TOOK OFF, THE
NORTH KOREANS, WHO WERE APPROACHING APPARENTLY SHOT THE

HELICOPTER DOWN.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT TWO OF THE CREW MEMBERS WERE KILLED WHEN THE HELICOPTER CRASHED. ANOTHER WAS APPARENTLY KILLED BY GUNFIRE. WE DON'T KNOW YET. AND THE FOURTH ONE HAS BEEN APPARENTLY CAPTURED.

WE HAVE ASKED THE NORTH KOREANS TO MEET WITH US IMMEDIATELY AT PANMUNJOM TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE INCIDENT. WE HAVE ASKED THEM TO EXPEDITE THIS MEETING. AT THIS TIME IT IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, OUR TIME. THAT IS WHAT THEY HAVE RESPONDED. WE ARE TRYING TO MOVE IT UP, IF WE CAN.

BUT WE ARE TRYING TO LET THEM KNOW THAT WE REALIZE THE MISTAKE WAS MADE BY THE CREW IN GOING INTO THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. OUR PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN HAVING THE INCIDENT NOT ESCALATE INTO A CONFRONTATION AND ALSO TO ACCOUNT FOR THE CREW MEMBERS.

IT WAS ORIGINALLY A FLIGHT FROM THE WEST COAST OF KOREA TO THE EAST COAST IN DAYLIGHT. APPARENTLY THE HELICOPTER LOST ITS NAVIGATION FIX. OF COURSE, THAT IS OUR ASSUMPTION. WE HAVEN'T TALKED TO THE MAIN CREW MEMBER. BUT WE HAVE HAD CONTACT NOW WITH THE NORTH KOREANS. UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, HELICOPTERS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE164783
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EHURWITZ:FLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D770251-0848
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770756/aaaabwej.tel
Line Count: 86
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 856d566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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